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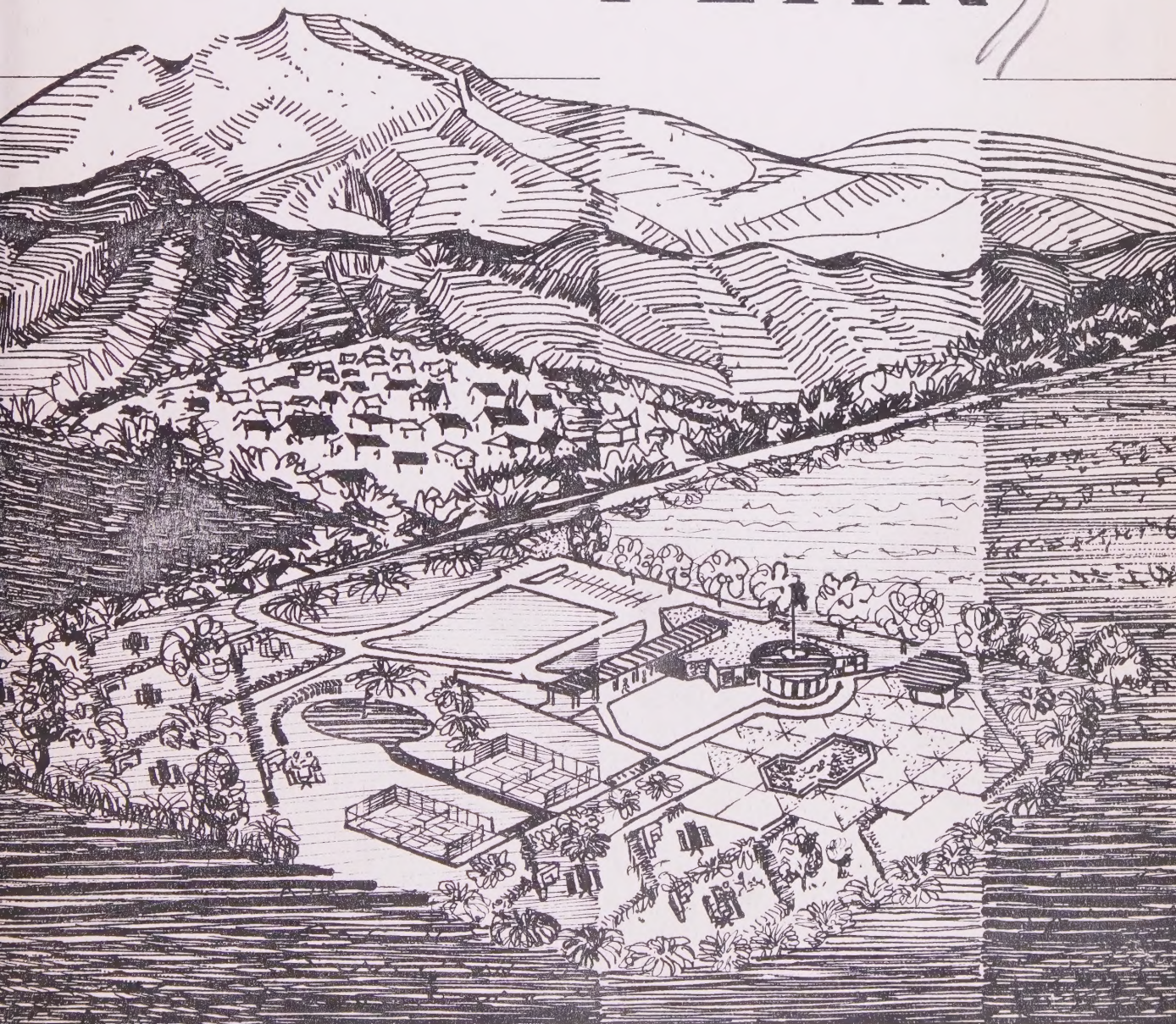


CONTRA COSTA COUNTY


Calif. Planning Dept

THE GENERAL PARK PLAN

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COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 1959



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COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA
PHONE ACADEMY 8-3000

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THOMAS G. HEATON
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
H. RUSSELL GRIFFITH
PRINCIPAL PLANNER

May 31, 1960

PLEASE DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE
TO: THOMAS G. HEATON
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

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Board of Supervisors
Contra Costa County
Martinez, California

Gentlemen:

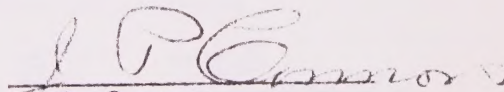
Herewith we are transmitting a copy of the report on the General Park Plan for Contra Costa County.

We have considered it as an element and a part of the County General Plan which was adopted on December 15, 1959 by the Commission.

The Park Plan was developed by the Planning Department in cooperation with the County Park Commission. The Park Commission established the priorities shown on the Plan and report and gave it its approval. It was then presented to this Planning Commission on May 22, 1959. Public hearings were held subsequently.

We trust you will give the Plan your full consideration. We recommend that a full Park program should be instituted at this stage for the proper development of our County.

Yours very truly,


J. P. Connors
Chairman Contra Costa
County Planning Commission

JPC:wr

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DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
H. RUSSELL GRIFFITH
PRINCIPAL PLANNER

September 15, 1959

PLEASE DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE
TO: THOMAS G. HEATON
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

Planning Commission
Contra Costa County
Martinez, California

Gentlemen:

With pleasure we are submitting herewith, a report and summation of the County General Park Plan. In review you will remember the Plan was first submitted for your consideration on May 22, 1959. After discussion, subsequent public hearings were held.

You will remember, too, the General Park Plan was presented as being an element and a part of the County General Plan which you now have under development.

The County Park Commission concurs and recommends approval of this plan after studying the proposals with the Planning Department staff.

We trust, after due consideration, you will find the Plan worthy of submission to the Board of Supervisors for further implementation of a Park Program within Contra Costa County.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS G. HEATON
Director of Planning

By:

H Russell Griffith

H. Russell Griffith
Principal Planner

Ray Thayer

Ray Thayer
Assistant Planner
Parks

RJT:wr

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INTRODUCTION

Contra Costa County, located in the heart of the San Francisco Bay Area, is a land endowed with great natural beauty and virtually untouched resources for outdoor recreation. These resources are present in a myriad of forms.

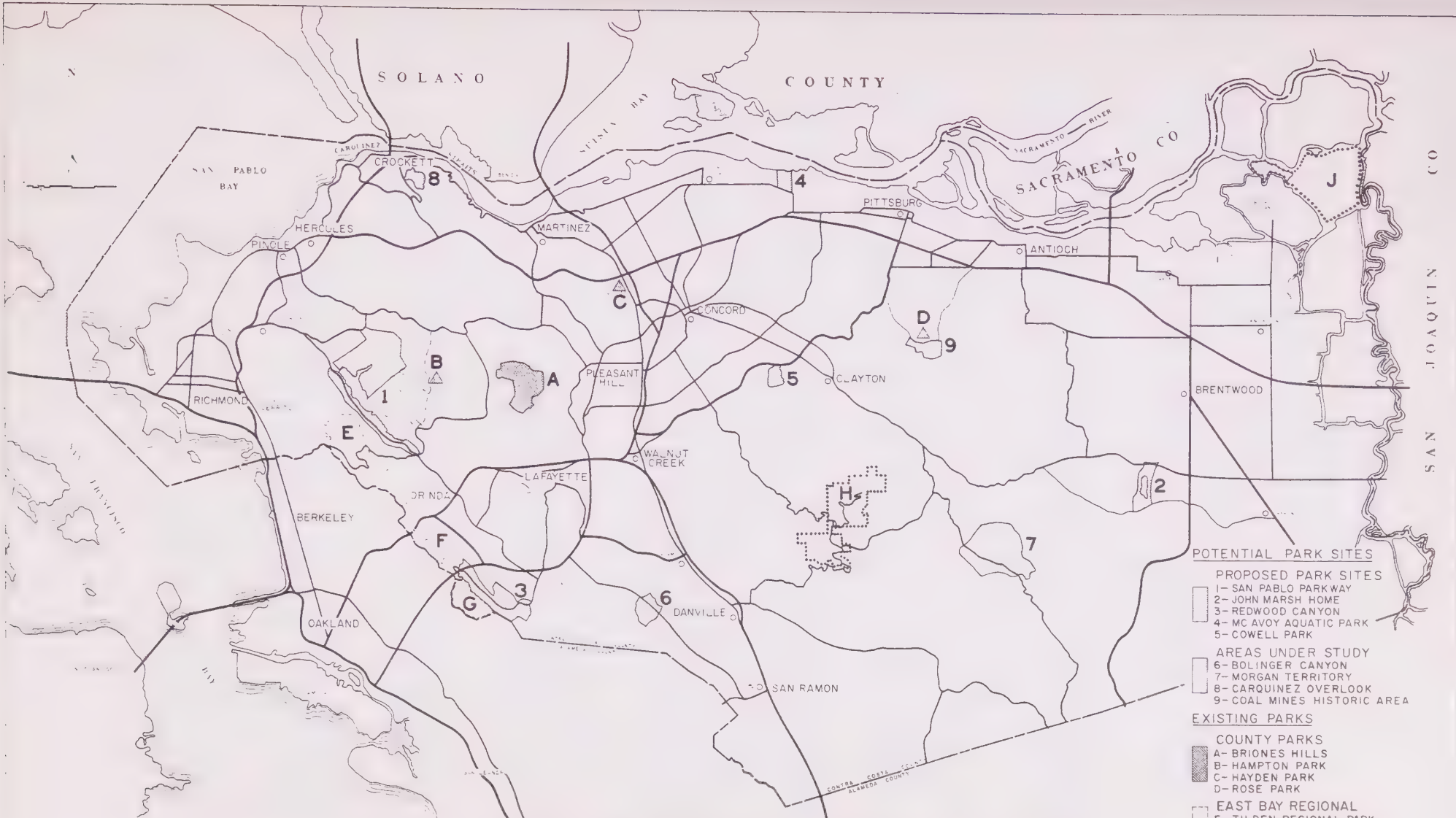
To mention only a few outstanding examples, in the northeastern corner of the County is the vast delta area formed by the junction of the San Joaquin River, Old River, and the north fork of the Mokelumne Rivers. This serene, expansive area is a fisherman's paradise. Sportsmen travel here from all over California to water ski, fish and hunt (ducks and pheasant exist here in great quantities). In the central portion of the County is the almost primitive "Morgan Territory" --- thousands of acres of heavily wooded canyons, rushing streams and rugged foothills. Towering above this nature area is majestic Mt. Diablo (topped by a 2,000 acre state park). Almost 4,000 feet of brush and oak covered slopes, the mountainsides are terraced with small glens and meadows, which afford spectacular views from the San Francisco Bay to the Sierra-Nevada Mountains. Passing quickly to the northwest, a change of scene is offered by the cloistered acres of the Briones Hills. Undeveloped, except for grazing purposes, there are over 1,500 acres of rolling hills, and small valleys dotted with many groves of Oak and Buckeye trees.

Of all this magnificent heritage, only a small fraction is available for public use and enjoyment. It is the ultimate purpose of the Park and Recreation Plan to help the 370,000 residents of Contra Costa County realize the maximum use and enjoyment from this precious, but perishable, legacy of nature's resources.

PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICTS

The Planning Commission staff recommends local recreational facilities in all general plans. However, since it is not the policy of the Park Commission to acquire local or community parks, the Park Commission has recommended the use of Service Areas or Park and Recreation Districts by the unincorporated communities. Descriptions and interpretation of the State enabling legislation regarding these two systems can be obtained from the County District Attorney's office.

There are no Park or Recreation service areas in the County at present, but there are 3 Park and Recreation Districts: - Ambrose, Brentwood and Pleasant Hill. The Ambrose and Brentwood Districts were formed in 1946, while the one in Pleasant Hill was formed in 1951.



THE GENERAL PARK PLAN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CALIFORNIA 1959

PREPARED BY THE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

- POTENTIAL PARK SITES**
- PROPOSED PARK SITES**
- 1- SAN PABLO PARKWAY
 - 2- JOHN MARSH HOME
 - 3- REDWOOD CANYON
 - 4- MC AVOY AQUATIC PARK
 - 5- COWELL PARK
- AREAS UNDER STUDY**
- 6- BOLINGER CANYON
 - 7- MORGAN TERRITORY
 - 8- CARQUINEZ OVERLOOK
 - 9- COAL MINES HISTORIC AREA
- EXISTING PARKS**
- COUNTY PARKS**
- A- BRIONES HILLS
 - B- HAMPTON PARK
 - C- HAYDEN PARK
 - D- ROSE PARK
- EAST BAY REGIONAL**
- E- TILDEN REGIONAL PARK
 - F- ROUND TOP REGIONAL PARK
 - G- REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK
- STATE PARKS**
- H- MT DIABLO
 - J- FRANKS TRACT
- PROPOSED PARKWAYS**

THE GENERAL PARK PLAN

PREAMBLE

To implement a county park program the Board of Supervisors in 1954 established the County Park Commission to advise the Board in park matters. The County Park Commission has made many studies of the park problem in the County, and as a result adopted certain policies and guiding principles for potential park sites. (See Pages 4 and 5.)

In may 1956 a "Preliminary Park Plan" was prepared and adopted in principle by the County Planning Commission. This plan, although preliminary, has served as a guide to the County, and as a result one large park area "The Briones Park" consisting of 1435 acres was set aside to be purchased on a ten year acquisition plan.

The Park Commission has obtained advice from the Planning Commission technical staff particularly since August 1957. Many studies of sites have been made and viewed in the field keeping in mind at all times the intent of the policy to study and propose areas of County wide interest.

In the preparation of the overall General Plan for Contra Costa County, the park plan is only one of the elements to be considered as a part of that plan. When adopted we are therefore proposing this element "The General Park Plan" as a part of the overall plan. Projected land use, existing and proposed major roads, and the projected population are all considered and studied in arriving at this plan proposal. Overall studies have been in progress for several years in the Area Plan program in the Advance Planning Section of the Planning Department.

The Planning Department has issued during this time other reports and plans concerned with the planning of recreation facilities within the County. In 1955 a Shoreline Development Plan was issued, this was followed in 1956 by the Preliminary Master Plan for Small Craft Harbors.

It is the function and the duty of a city, county, state or federal government to provide these facilities in adequate measure for its constituents.

Natural recreational resources are limited and they are perishable. Once they are destroyed they can rarely, if ever, be replaced. They should, therefore, be carefully preserved and full recognition be given their invaluable contribution to a well-balanced community.

These are of value in further studies for the General Plan. The County Harbor Committee recently appointed by the Board of Supervisors proposes to present a Harbors Master Plan for adoption in the near future.

PARK COMMISSION POLICY

The park policy of the Contra Costa County Park Commission is based on the following assumptions:

Local recreation is that which serves at a neighborhood or community level and is the responsibility of the local community. Regional recreation is that which serves several communities, counties or states and is the responsibility of a larger jurisdiction, such as a County, State or Federal Government.

The County responsibility lies between that of the State and that of the local government. Local responsibility, as defined above, is to provide recreational facilities which are primarily for local benefit. The State, on the other hand, is responsible for sites which are of statewide significance. More specifically, the State considers sites which are of a nature to encourage statewide use and indicate, by check studies that users are willing to travel distances in excess of 100 miles to reach the unit.

Therefore, the facilities provided by the County Government should serve the people of several cities or communities of the County. These would be the type of facility that cannot be furnished by the individual community, but can be supplied by the resources of the larger governing unit.

This Commission does, however, feel the County has a responsibility to assist local areas situated in unincorporated sections of the County in any way it can, short of taking on financial responsibility for such services. It can, for instance, accept suitable parcels dedicated for park purposes and hold them until such time as they feel ready to develop them, or until some local jurisdiction is created to assume responsibility.

Adopted -- 1956

The following guiding principles have been adopted by the County Park Commission:

Guiding Principles: Long Range Policy

1. The "park function" should be limited to the acquisition and development of areas suitable for outdoor recreational activities which require extensive acreage, and which in general are not included in the recreational lands of other local public authorities and to an insufficient degree on the part of the State government.
2. Leadership. Responsibility for safeguarding the public while using the facilities and normal maintenance and care of the properties shall be the county's. (Leadership necessary to plan, direct, and supervise program of activities shall be the responsibility of the users.)
3. Site Selection: Criteria
 - a. Located so as to effectively serve the total or a major region of the county.
 - b. Does not duplicate an existing park area in the same region which is presently not fully used, and which when developed will meet estimated future needs.
 - c. Be of sufficient size and contain the features which will permit development of facilities necessary for natural outdoor activities (camping, hiking, trail riding, water areas, nature areas, golf courses, etc.).
 - d. When not in conflict -- select the site which will serve more than one general purpose -- i.e., flood control, water supply, etc.
 - e. When feasible, join with the state and local governments in financing the acquisition, development and operation of mutually acceptable sites.

STANDARDS

In attempting to set standards for a plan of large parks, the first thing one finds is that there is an almost complete absence of precedent for this type of standard. After further study, it becomes increasingly clear why this is so. The standards used for large reservation type parks must necessarily be of a more general nature than the type used for local and community parks. Unless there are almost unlimited funds available for development, these large parks must be located where the natural facilities are already available. Because such sites are limited in number and are generally in remote locations, access and travel times from population centers become considerations, which tend to seriously modify any set standard,

The East Bay Regional Park System, which is a model example of its class, closely approximates the type of park system which the Park Commission is striving to create. Because its ultimate acreage goal of 10,000 acres (which at the present would be approximately one acre/100 population) seems reasonable in the light of attendance figures and in the capacity of its present facilities, the technical staff has used as a guide the acre/100 population as a rough gauge in determining the acres needed to serve Contra Costa County's residents. It has been the Planning Staff's conscientious endeavor to achieve, in the preparation of this plan, an equitable balance of all these considerations -- the availability of suitable sites, the acreage needed, the accessibility of the sites and their proximity to population centers.

REPORT ON THE GENERAL PARK PLAN

MAY 22, 1959

Submitted to the County Planning Commission.

The General Plan of Parks for Contra Costa County is brought to the attention of the Planning Commission by the Planning Department at this time for consideration and comment, and you are asked to give the department and the Park Commission your comments on it.

The proposals which are being presented were made by study sessions and by field trips to the various proposed sites with members of the Park Commission.

The Planning Department has continued the function of determining and mapping areas of land within the County which it believes holds a potential for park purposes. This potential is combined with, and weighed with other factors to further the establishment of a priority for the site. The geographic location within the county's system of highways is a factor, are public access roads into the proposed park presently available, or will the construction of such roads be a part of eventual development costs are other factors. The location of population centers as they now exist within the county is a factor, also, in choosing the locations of some park areas. Then when the maps of projected populations (1970) are studied, that problem is added to the above considerations.

This County has grown rapidly in the past twenty years, and greater growth is a certainty in the years ahead. As the population increases so does the need for land for development purposes for homes, business places, industry, and for recreation. As land is swallowed up by these needs it becomes apparent, and very urgent that areas of parklands be planned for and conserved for future use.

These repeated and often quoted pleas for the conservation of parklands or open spaces, become perhaps too plaintive, but if we plan well the uses of our growing community we also plan its parks and open spaces with equal concern as other community services are planned. That is, recreation space is an equal need in any healthy community for the public welfare and enjoyment.

In 1955 the County Park Commission recommended to the Board of Supervisors that the parks of general County level as determined by the Park Commission should be larger than the area of local community parks and playgrounds, in general being 500 acres or more in extent. They should, again, be of regional more than local interest. Standards for park requirements are not firm, and they vary. If we apply the accepted formula that 100 people require 1 acre of park land, then this County with its present population of 380,000 and an anticipated 650,000 by 1970, we will arrive at a

total of around 6,500 acres needed for County parks, and the park needs after 1970 will demand even more planning. This program which we are presenting to you totals approximately 6,800 acres.

The need for parks and recreation in a fast developing region such as our County should be apparent for many reasons.

Need for open spaces for public welfare and enjoyment is the most important.

Need for study and determination before the lands are lost to developments and by reason of rising costs, etc.

However, this study of the lands within the county is like an inventory of a general store which offers many different items for sale on its shelves. The County has its own unique topography, its complex of transportation arteries and population centers which upon study show open, natural areas worthy of preservation. Sub-marginal lands not suitable for agriculture, industry or community development frequently prove to be of prime value in the park study and by any view should be conserved.

In the fall of 1958 the planning staff presented a preliminary study plan to the Park Commission for study and comment. The Plan has been reviewed in the intervening time, any revisions, thought necessary, have been made: The summation of potential park sites follows:

The numbered recommendations 1 through 5 are potential park sites to which intensive study has been given, and determinations proposed.

The study areas numbered 6 to 9 are areas which we believe to hold high potential for park use. It is proposed that further studies be made and their park values weighed.

Recommendation No. 1
San Pablo Reservoir - 2725 Acres
Parkway and Recreation area

The scenic lands surrounding the San Pablo Reservoir have for sometime past been considered as having a high potential for various recreational uses, and their conservation has been publicly demanded.

It is fortunate that they have been held in their present state, which has preserved the natural values. That further planning should be done is apparent and urgent to insure the highest and best use for the future of this fine scenic area.

If the population density of the city and town centers about this reservoir region continue to grow as it has in the past, and the indications are that it will grow at a greater rate, the preservation of this fine open space about the reservoir will prove a great asset for public use and enjoyment.

Recently the county completed a new road along the west side of the Reservoir, Camino Pablo, this connects the Orinda vicinity with the cities to the north El Sobrante, Richmond, etc. The lands between the old lake front road and this new road have been thought of as a possible parkway development. The Planning Department urgently proposes this, and detailed plans and estimates of the costs have been prepared and submitted to the proper authorities. It was further proposed that the acquired right of way be graded and plantings installed. These plans and costs were submitted also.

Our maps also show the lands to the north and east of reservoir dam recommended for park purposes. We believe it well suited to this use, it comprises both wooded and open hilly country. This surrounds a fine extensive valley floor with areas for diverse recreation demands.

Access roads to open these lands to public use could be easily constructed leading from present county roads. The portion of land immediately north of the dam and its sluiceway, known as the Eucalyptus grove, would make an excellent picnic grove and play area. With very little work it could be put into operation to fill some of the needs of the people for parks in the county.

Recommendation No. 2

John Marsh Home Recreation Area - 1200 Acres

It is recommended that about 1,200 acres of land be acquired around the flood control lake proposed for this valley.

The area lies in the southeast section of the county, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Brentwood. Marsh Creek serves for drainage of the area. Marsh Creek Road traverses the proposed lake and dam site north to south, making the site accessible from all points in the county.

The historical John Marsh home occupies the flat land to the north of the proposed dam; this fine old building constructed of stone about 1850 could serve as center of the activities proposed for the region and is worthy, therefore, of restoration and preservation.

The broad, flat valley floor south from the Marsh home has been in agricultural use. The low hills which surround this valley have been used for grazing. Some smaller valleys branch out to east from the major valley.

This entire area now proposed has excellent recreational potential, the lake being the center of attraction, it is hoped would be a fresh water fishing facility, as well as allowing the development of bathing beaches, etc. This county is in great need of this type of recreation.

It is felt that this area if developed would attract people from the entire county and be quite regional in type.

Studies of the park use of this region have been made in cooperation with the local Flood Control District. Consultations have been had with the State Department of Fish and Game and the Wildlife Conservation Board relative to fish stocking possibilities of the lake and access ramps to the lake surface for public use. Final determinations of these possibilities have not been reached at this time.

Having all these considerations in mind we, therefore, recommend this cooperative project as worthy of development into a county wide recreational facility.

Recommendation No. 3

Redwood Canyon - 1396 Acres in the southwest portion of the county.

This well known area is generally thought of as a park. It bears its name proudly, having had a long history of use. The Redwoods remain the great attraction in the Canyon. Many visitors have hiked the hills to study the unique plants and wildlife.

It is our recommendation that this region as outlined on the maps be conserved and protected for the future.

The redwoods lie along San Leandro Creek bed and up the steep slopes on the west side of the valley. The hillsides on the eastern side are partially wooded, the hilltops are shrub covered. In spite of heavy usage of this territory it shows no scars or serious erosion spots. The hilltops offer commanding views over the surrounding countryside.

This canyon is traversed by a surfaced county road which makes ready access to all sections of this proposed park. Other main county highways lead into this road from county centers of population.

The uses which might develop in this area are infinite. A system of foot trails would be of value to the nature lover and student. An inter park bridle path could connect with the state trail which is to be established leading into neighboring parks and counties. Well defined use areas could be established along the traversing County road.

Looking at the map we find this area lying just east of and parallel to the Redwood Regional Park which is in turn adjacent to the heavily developed metropolitan areas of Piedmont and Oakland.

Present ownership of this park proposal is partially private with the greater acreage held by a utility district.

The proposal to establish this park area has been approved in previous park reports. It is again recommended as a fine reservation to be acquired and maintained in its present state for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Recommendation No. 4

McAvoy Small Craft Harbor and Aquatic Park - 380 Acres

There are no public areas at present along the total County waterfront, this recommendation proposes such an area be established.

This proposal at McAvoy outlined by the maps is approximately 380 acres in extent, being on Suisun Bay just north of Shore Acres and about three miles west of the city of Pittsburg.

Due also to the great and expanding interest in boating we find a great need for berthage and boating facilities. The McAvoy waterfront would lend itself to such a development. The land in general is about three feet above high tide and is well drained sloping to the Bay.

Present are slough and channels which it is proposed be extended to furnish the above mentioned needs. The land now has a cover which supports good grazing; there is no tree canopy. The waterway entries into the area from Suisun Bay have not presented any problems of navigation or boat safety. Some contacts have been made with the State Small Craft Harbors Commission regarding advice on this site both as to the location and its feasibility. The Commission has made favorable report.

Further the McAvoy area has great potential as an aquatic or waterside park, here is space for many public uses. The visitors could find refreshment here, room for family picnics, sports of all kinds, and enjoy bank fishing.

The sketch plan prepared of this area shows in detail locations of these recreation attractions.

This harbor and park area is at the hub of the major county roads and the area is also well centered in the larger county centers of population.

It is, therefore, recommended that further inquiry be made as to possible acquisition of this site.

Study Area No. 5

Cowell Park Site - 1037 Acres

Prior reports and findings proved this park site within the Cowell Cement Company lands southeast of Concord to be worthy of acquisition. Negotiations to this end with the Cowell Foundation then proved fruitless. However, the Park Commission wishes to retain this fine park site in the considerations of a County Park System. Detailed information on this park proposal can be obtained from a report published in August 1957, entitled "The Proposed Cowell Park, Contra Costa County", on file in the Planning offices.

Study Area No. 6

Bolinger Canyon - Park and Parkway - 1200 Acres

The area under study for park is the Bollinger Canyon which is southeasterly from St. Mary's College to the Crow Canyon Road. This region we believe holds potential for park use. Field trips to the area suggest a central reservation of around 1200 acres and the possibility of using the old county roadbed as a parkway into and thru the park should receive more consideration.

The physical features of the canyon are variable. The eastern hills show great rock outcroppings with tree cover. The round hills to the west are massive and only partially tree covered. The roads leading into Canyon are passable. A portion of the section north from Crow Canyon Road has recently been realigned and resurfaced. Of interest is the fact that the canyon serves as a natural divide. Las Trampas Creek drains the northern part and Bollinger Creek, the southern.

We feel that further study should be made of the Bolinger Canyon and reported on more fully later.

Its location within the county ties in well with any plan for a county system of parks.

Study Area No. 7

The Morgan Territory - Approximately 2400 Acres

This extensive region just southeast of Mt. Diablo is referred to as the Morgan Territory. It is wild, rugged country, the foothills of the Mount Diablo.

The open range land is used for grazing. There is no great amount of cropping or agriculture, the lands which are under study are south of the presently operated ranches.

At this stage of the study, no definite area has been outlined for park use. There is no doubt in this stage of planning that a large territory should be considered. This being a proposal that a large reservation of land be made, which could be preserved or developed as needed in years ahead.

A narrow paved road now curves thru the territory from Marsh Creek Road on south to Alameda County and Route 50.

For same time past the Curry Canyon which leads east off the Morgan Territory road into the high slopes of Mt. Diablo, has been regarded by the State Parks as a possible parkway connection to the State Park roads which ascend the mountain from the western county.

The Planning Department suggests some cooperative planning here, perhaps the Morgan Territory study would show the value of a connection between these park areas. The lands which we are proposing for park could very well develop into different use patterns than the mountain top lands.

Study Area No. 8

A park overlooking Carquinez Straits - Approximately 900 Acres

The highlands along Carquinez Straits between the towns of Crockett and Port Costa are very scenic and open. They are worthy of park study as they are accessible from the Cummings' Skyway and McEwen Road. Any area on these hilltops offers fine views out over the straits and the Mare Island installations to the north, to the south the views of the county's interior region are equally magnificent.

Further, these lands are located within the county in a region which could well use public open space and recreation facilities. Here again, if residential development or industrial expansion takes place, these open areas or parks if planned for would prove to be a valuable asset in the County Park Plan.

Recommendation No. 9

The Somersville - Nortonville Coal Mines Area - 390 Acres

This recommended area is in the rough, hilly country south of the cities of Pittsburg and Antioch whose populace it would mainly serve. In the central portion are flat areas which could develop into the usual recreation uses. The hill country is suitable for riding and hiking, and is fine for nature study.

Another feature is the historic sites of the old towns of Nortonville and Somersville; it is regrettable that all of the buildings have been torn down, however, some of the mine tunnels and workings are of interest to visitors to the area. Park wise this area is accessible by two hard surfaced roads; one from each city to the north, and tie in with major roads from Walnut Creek, Concord and Martinez. The area is traversed by a county road which ties the ends of the two roads mentioned above. This scenic road we propose as a parkway of high priority.

This site is used by the public now much to the annoyance of the private owners and local police. A definite park use could be better controlled.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA RIDING AND HIKING TRAIL

The California Riding and Hiking Trail System is planned to extend from the Oregon Border to Baja, California. One portion of it passes through Contra Costa County. It is to enter the County at Martinez and cross the southern boundary between San Ramon Valley and Vasco Road.

Within Contra Costa County the State has acquired most of the rights-of-way from the City of Martinez to Clayton. They are presently working to complete this section of the trail and also to acquire a right-of-way to Mt. Diablo State Park. When this has been accomplished, a conference will be arranged with Alameda County in regard to a desirable location for the trail connection from Mt. Diablo to the portion of the trail through Alameda County.

COUNTY RIDING AND HIKING TRAILS

In 1945 the Planning Commission adopted as a part of the Master Recreation Plan for the County, a comprehensive system of Riding and Hiking Trails. This plan shows the tie in of county trails with the State trail, also showing some proposals for new trails system serving the entire system. This Master Plan, it is now felt, should be reviewed, and renewed effort exerted towards its completion.

PARKWAYS

The General Park Plan shows several proposed Parkways which the Planning Department feels to be an important part of the Plan. Those shown on the maps serve to provide entry into and connect with potential park areas. More consideration should be given to the development of parkways within the county, for the county offers many fine scenic opportunities. Parkway easements might be obtained for the scenic values along some present county roads. New county roads being planned by the Public Works Department should be considered, cooperatively, with the Planning Department as possible parkways.

For review, the parkways shown on the General Plan are:

1. Parkway entrance into the Briones Hills Park (A) from Bear Creek Road.
2. A parkway thru the Bolinger Canyon (6).
3. A parkway along the western shore of the San Pablo Reservoir (1).
4. A parkway from the Morgan Territory (7) thru Curry Canyon to Mt. Diablo State Park.
5. A parkway along the present road which traverses Redwood Canyon (3).
6. A parkway around the new Briones Reservoir.

EXISTING COUNTY PARKS

Of the 5 park sites owned by the County, only one is used by the public - Hayden Park in Pacheco. Bret Harte Park and Lafayette Plans are simply landscaped traffic islands. Rose Park is a historical cemetery site. Hampton Park, containing 70 acres, is no real contribution to the Park System in the present state, because it has no adequate safeguard against fires, and is a box canyon with only one entrance. Its use by the public is, therefore, discouraged. Hayden Park, has limited facilities and is heavily used in the summer. It is however, in a bad state of disrepair and greatly in need of further development.

Area A - Briones Hills' Park - 1435 Acres

This park shown on the General Park Plan as an existing park is presently being acquired under purchase agreement by the County. Its park values were determined by planning studies, and recommendations, plans for its development are being made. There is ample room and opportunity for many various public facilities within its boundaries.

Public approach roads to the park at present are inadequate. The area about the park is being studied for possible locations of approach roads, in this hilly country the grades are a problem. Within the park land there are excellent views from the hills. Park roads across these could lead into the valleys where many recreation facilities could be located.

Frank's Tract State Park, just recently acquired, is an inland water area intensely used for bass fishing. There is about 1400 acres of land area. The State Division of Beaches and Parks hope to have this area developed for full use shortly. The park is immediately north of Bethel Island and will be accessable by car too, when a bridge is built.

EXISTING FACILITIES IN COUNTY

I. COUNTY PARKS

- A. EDWARD J. HAMPTON PARK - 70.62 acres - Being located on Bear Creek Road approximately 2 miles south of Pinole Valley Road.
- B. HAYDEN PARK - 7.84 acres - Being located on State Highway IV-CC-75H, Pacheco.
- C. ROSE PARK - 2.73 acres - Being located on Coal Mines Road (Somersville Road) approximately 4½ miles southwest of the City of Antioch.

II. PROMINENT CITY PARKS

- A. MARTINEZ -
 - 1. Martinez City Park - (Rankin) - 42 acres.
- B. CONCORD -
 - 1. Proposed Park - 30 acres.

III. REGIONAL PARKS

- A. TILDEN REGIONAL PARK - 1143.38 acres - Being located Northwest of Orinda and southeast of the City of El Cerrito.
- B. ROUND TOP REGIONAL PARK - 166.44 acres - Being located Southwest of Orinda and southeast of the Broadway Low Level Tunnel.
- C. REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK - 760 acres - Being located in Canyon area, southwest of Moraga townsite.

IV. RIDING STABLES

Private Stables: 7

V. STATE PARK FACILITIES

- A. MT. DIABLO STATE PARK contains approximately 2140 acres. It is in constant use by the public, but its picnic and camping facilities are not nearly adequate to fulfill the demand placed on them. Of the 2140 acres, only about 600 acres are reasonably level enough for active use. Most of the sides of the mountain are too steep to be used for hiking by the majority of the public.
- B. STATE RIDING AND HIKING TRAIL

VI. YACHT HARBORS OR RESORTS

There are 45 harbors with approximately 2,000 berths.

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